WITK

The Spark Gap

MAY 1985

Book X Vol V

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

FIELD DAY!

After some discussion at several club meetings, we have decided to return to the Wellesley Town Hall yard for Field Day '85. This really is a pretty nice place to operate from, plus it is convenient to all necessary facilities. The dates, which you should reserve on your calendar now, are June 22-23. Several club members have volunteered to organize a cookout on Saturday night for the whole family and we hope to have a good turnout for that as well as many operators. More details next month.

EVENTS

Please note that the second meeting of the month will be on the fourth Thursday, May 23, not the third Thursday as is normal. This is to avoid a conflict with a Red Cross meeting.

That evening we will have a slide show on the Boston Marathon, with slides provided by several club members. With a number of course positions represented by the photographers you will be able to see what goes on during the race from start to finish. Come down and see what you missed at the Marathon!

Elections

It is time once again to choose who our future club leaders will be. Election of officers for the 1985/86 club year will be held Thursday, May 23. Please be on hand for this important meeting. See the ballot at the end of this issue.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We would like to thank the following people for donating their Marathon money to the club:

Dan Brevik, KZ1D
Jim Hatherley, WA1TBY
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM
Tom Riley, WB1BUN

WARS NET

Don't forget the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society net held every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. on 147.63/03. There are still many of you who have never checked in.

We are looking for some new people who would like to be net control either on a regular basis or just occasionally. Since the net is relatively informal it is not at all difficult; anyone capable of checking to the net is capable of running it. If you are interested, please contact Nels Anderson, K1UR.

MEETINGS THIS MONTH:
May 2, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
May 23, 1985, at 7:30 p.m.
211 Washington St., Wellesley

Repeater Reporter

by Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

Due to some misunderstanding regarding the previous lists, the following list contains the names of all the people that have helped out in the purchase of our new repeater, duplexers, and accessories since we originally asked for help over a year ago. Again, thanks to everybody and see you all on '03.

Allan Bacon	K1BA
Anonymous	
Arnie Adelman	W1GCI
Art Thompson	KA1ENP
Bob Drapeau	KT1K
C.J. McDonald	WB1BUM
Dave Kent	N2AWG
Dave McLellan	N1DFP
Eric Thoresen	K1OGF
George Joubert	KA1JIP
Georges Vedie	KA1LQO
Hank Ostrowski	VE3CGL
Harry McDade	W1LMU
Jim Hatherley	WA1TBY
John O'Brien	N1AWX
John Sangster	W3IKG
John Taylor	N1CPF
Ken Dono	KQ1W
Ken McNair	N1DEZ
Mort Cohan	KA1IU
Nels Anderson	K1UR
Pete Bradley	N1ADX
Rick Procopio	N1CZT
Rita Baker	N1DDI
Roger Smith	W1EOA
Scott Nacey	WA1YOJ
Skid Schermerhorn	W1TTY
Thomas Burton	KX1H
Tom Kinahan	N1CPE
Wing Choy	KA1BHZ

Auctions / Flea Markets

May 5: Hampden County Radio Association Flea Market at the West Springfield Elks Lodge. Take Mass Pike to West Springfield, exit 4, then 1/2 mile south on Route 5. Turn right at Abdow's Restaurant onto Morgan Road. The Elk's Lodge is 3/4 mile on the left. Admission is $1.00, tables ar $3.00. Times are 9:00 a.m. to 3:0 p.m. and food is available. Contac Paul Kress, WA1ZKT, 413-568-8291.

May 11: Hosstraders Swapfest, Deerfield, N.H. Admission $2. Starts Friday evening and then runs all day Saturday. New England's biggest flea market!

Hamnews

Alabama has recoordinated all 2 meter repeaters in the state to 20 kHz spacing. William Matthews, WA4ZVJ, of the Alabama VHF-UHF Council, told the ARRL Letter that the decision was reached in a March 2nd meeting of the Council. Four of the 103 repeaters in Alabama could not be reassigned to a frequency pair under the new band plan, and these repeaters will have to wait for new pairs when they become available. Matthews said that the Council decided that Alabama should lead the area in implementing 20 kHz spacing.

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1985

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Nels Anderson, K1UR, 872-5259
VICE PRESIDENT:
David Curry, K1TK, 237-2450
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE,653-0641
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Allan Bacon, K1BA, 749-4382
TREASURER:
C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM, 332-6091
FUND RAISING:
Kevin Kelly, WA1YHV, 242-0341
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

EDUCATION CHAIRMAN:

STATION MANAGER:
Bob Drapeau, KT1K, 883-1132
REPEATER COMMITTEE:
Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, 653-0641

The Spark Gap

Official Journal of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society

EDITOR:

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THE "SPARK GAP" IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO KEEP ITS MEMBERS ABREAST OF CURRENT HAPPENINGS, FCC RULES AND REGULATIONS CHANGES, AND TO LIST EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE OR TRADE BY MEMBERS. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE "SPARK GAP" AND MAY SEND THEIR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR. ITEMS PRINTED IN THE "SPARK GAP" MAY BE REPRINTED BY OTHER AMATEUR RADIO PUBLICATIONS PROVIDED THE AUTHOR AND THE "SPARK GAP" ARE GIVEN CREDIT.

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF AMATEUR RADIO THROUGH INSTRUCTION, FELLOWSHIP, DEMONSTRATION, AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY IS $8.00. THE CLUB YEAR RUNS SEPTEMBER 1 TO AUGUST 31. AMATEUR NOVICE AND GENERAL CLASSES ARE CONDUCTED REGULARLY AT NO COST. TO ENROLL IN A CLASS, OR GAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY IN GENERAL, WRITE:

THE WELLESLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
211 WASHINGTON STREET
WELLESLEY HILLS, MASS. 02181

MINUTES

Meeting of April 4, 1985:

Meeting opened at 7:45 p.m. by K1UR.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Secretary's report accepted.

Mort Cohan, KA1IU, discussed a recent packet connection he had with K1BC in Lexington, MA via K7PYK in Scottsdale, AZ on 30 Meters, W0RLI in Westford, MA on 30 meters, to W1DC in Billerica, MA on 2 Meters from W0RLI's gateway which could get him to K1BC also on 2 meters from his station in Medway, MA. The result was about 20 miles line of sight, but his he was able to digipeat 4,400 miles to get there!

Art Thompson, KA1ENP, looking for people for Wellesley College Walk, April 28.

Meeting closed at 7:55 p.m.

Our guest speaker, Kitty Hevener, WB8TDA, filled us in on ARRL happenings, Cable TV interference, and proposals before the FCC.

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Meeting of April 18, 1985:

Meeting opened at 7:50 p.m. by K1UR.

Treasurer's report accepted.

Secretary's report accepted.

Wellesley College Walk-a-thon April 28, see KA1ENP if you want to help.

Proposal to send $15 to New England Spectrum Management Commitee to support frequency coordinating and spectrum management efforts in New England. Approved, 1 opposed.

We have received certification on our repeaters and links from the New England Spectrum Management Comittee. They are 147.63/147.03, 444.6/449.6 and 147.63 in and 438.425 out.

Charles River Run, Sunday May 5, 1985. Contact C.J. McDonald. Need 8 people.

The second meeting in May will be on the 4th Thursday, May 23. This was moved to accomodate a Red Cross meeting.

KT1K-1 digipeater is reported to be on the air from Babson. All packet enthusiasts are encouraged to try it and report results to Bob, KT1K.

The club vertical is still being looked into, we've been backordered everywhere we go.

Ken McNair, N1DEZ, suggested a family cookout, hotdogs and hamburger style at Field Day, those in attendance were interested in the idea.

Field Day, June 22 - 23. Keep this one on your calendar. We are planning to return again to the Wellesley Town Hall.

VHF Contest - 2nd weekend in June. Any and all interested contact a club officer. We need lots of help on this one. In addition to the contest is the Equinox Hill Climb.

Meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Auction

by Nels Anderson

Our annual auction was held a bit earlier than usual this year, March 30 to be exact, in an attempt to stay away from other similar events. As has been the trend for several years our profits were down but we still came out in the black and should be able to survive for another year.

We had a good crew of workers on hand early in the morning to set up and everything came together well. In fact, we almost managed to be ready before the first people came to check-in! We were actually ready well before the advertised 10:00 a.m. check-in time.

Unfortunately, there were not as many items to sell as in the past and some of the better items went unsold. The food concession did well though, as did the raffle and bargain table. Most of the items on the bargain table were donations so even though each item went for relatively little in the end we made out well.

This year we could not get our usual auctioneers, but first time auctioneer Gene Balinski, WA1UXA, of Nashua, N.H. filled in very ably. We would like to thank Gene for coming down to help us out. He did a remarkably good job for a first timer, and hopefully will agree to return in the future.

The auction ended in the early afternoon and clean up went very quickly. We may not have made a lot but it was a relatively easy day. Thanks to all the club members who came to help out.

Boston Marathon

by Nels Anderson, K1UR

There were some major changes in our participation in the Boston Marathon this year. For one thing, even though many of the participants were W.A.R.S. members most communications did not take place on Amateur Radio Because of a recent FCC ruling, the race coordination had to be moved to commercial frequencies. It was still primarily hams who were manning the microphones though.

Except for the change in frequency, most of the race communications were the same as in the past. As organized by Dick Paret, WA1ZLQ, we exchanged information on race leaders between the timer in the television truck, officials at each five mile checkpoint, and the officials at the finish. In addition, movement of vehicles on the course were coordinated using a second frequency. Net control also had a link with the hams at the Red Cross to handle any medical problems.

Around the finish line area we had people in net control on the 17th floor of the Prudential building, on the 10th floor in the press room, in the computer truck right at the finish line and with various officials.

Hamnews

A "Successful Completion Certificate" issued by a VEC-operated Volunteer Examination team is not now considered valid proof that an applicant is qualified to take a higher license class test. Under the current rules, a candidate must await the arrival of his new license before taking the next higher exam. He can avoid this waiting period only by retaking the element already passed.

In an effort to correct this Rules oversight, ARRL Counsel Chris Imlay, N3AKD, has asked the FCC to clarify the matter. Imlay's letter notes that when the FCC was still testing and issuing interim operating permits, these permits were sufficient proof to permit upgrading. Tnx KB1NW/ARRL.

Westlink Report, April 19, 1985

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As many as five OSCAR launches could take place within the next 24 months, according to AMSAT. The Phase 3-C and the French Arsene Amateu

birds are scheduled for orbiting in mid 1986 by the European Space Agency from its launch facility in French Guiana using an Ariane 4 booster.

The Marshall Amateur Radio Club's Get Away Special (GAS) shuttle experiment will fly again in May. This is because of problems during the last attempt to use it from space. The "flying mailbox" store and forward PACSAT satellite is looking like a good bet for a 1987 launch from the space shuttle, while the Japanese built JAS-1, employing a Mode J transponder, may be in orbit by February of 1986. You can also expect to see one or more Soviet "RS" birds launched.

Westlink Report, April 19, 1985

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Responding to a Petition filed by the ARRL seeking automatic control for digital communications above 30 MHz, the Commission has proposed to allow automatic control for all Amateur operations above 29.7 MHz.

A news release dated April 10th describes the Notice of Proposed Rule-making in PR Docket 85-105, in which the FCC states that this may be the appropriate time to expand automatic control operations in order to utilize new technology, such as Computer Based Message Systems.

This FCC preliminary news release does not go into detail. We will have to wait until the NPRM is released for the details.

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1985

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We have received some good news, and some bad news, concerning the next "Ham in Space" mission.

The bad news is that it will not be possible to complete the Shuttle modifications that would have permitted antennas to be mounted in the cargo bay. This means that it will not be possible to use a 28 MHz downlink.

The good news is that plans are moving forward for Tony England, W0ORE, to operate on 2 meters using the same window mounted antenna that was used by W5LFL.

Tony's mission is designated 51-F. It is scheduled to last seven days, and because of other mission requirements it probably will not be possible for the Amateur Radio antenna to be used until midway through the third day. Accordingly, Tony's operating time will be limited and it is unlikely that there will be much opportunity for random contacts. The focus will be on making contacts with youth groups and other groups who want to assist in exposing young people to this exciting aspect of Amateur Radio and the nation's space program. In addition, time will be devoted to experimental transmissions of slow-scan television from the spacecraft.

ARRL Letter, April 11, 1985

CHUCKLE KORNER

from Dayton RF Carrier, via ARNS

Every place you look anymore you see Japanese radios. While they make some pretty good ones, even the best of them flunk once in a while. Somehow, hams hesitate to dive in and try to fix them. You hear all kinds of excuses, parts too small, fingers too big, no test equipment, etc. Hogwash! I just think those guys got us all buffaloed. Just because we don't understand their culture, we are afraid we can't cope with their radios.

One of my friends suggested I share with the readers how I fix these little gadgets. He pointed out we probably have a lot of readers who were not around when I discussed this several years ago.

First, turn the radio upside down and look for a little hole marked with unintelligible hen scratchings.

Next, get a bottle of saki. Pour half the bottle in the little hole. Drink the other half. In a short time you will be amazed at how much better the signals sound. In those rare cases where this doesn't correct the problem, you might get another bottle of saki. Drink it all this time. This is almost sure to make your radio sound better.

Wellesley Amateur Radio Society
Election of Officers
1985-86

The following is the list of candidates for club offices for 1985-86. Elections will be held at the club meeting on May 23, 1985. If you cannot make the meeting that evening and would like to vote by mail, you may use this ballot. Your vote must arrive at the club before the May 23 meeting.

PRESIDENT:

Tom Kinahan, N1CPE

VICE PRESIDENT:

Rita Baker, N1DDI
David Curry, K1TK

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Arthur Thompson, KA1ENP

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Nels Anderson, K1UR

TREASURER:

C.J. McDonald, WB1BUM

OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Allan Bacon, K1BA

FUND RAISING:

Thomas Burton, KX1H

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WELLESLEY
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SOCIETY

211 Washington Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

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